

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the thorough review of the present application as evidenced by the Official Action. The Examiner rejects Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to nonstatutory subject matter. In addition, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-2, 8, 12-17, 24-25, and 31 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,832,451 to Flake et al. The Official Action also rejects Claims 1-10 and 24-33 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,832,454 to Jafri et al. Moreover, Claims 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flake in view of Jafri.

As explained below, independent Claims 1, 5, 6, 12, 14, 17, 24, and 28 have been amended to more patentably distinguish the cited art, taken either individually or in combination. Claims 35-43 have been added, and Claims 3, 4, 15, 26, and 27 have been cancelled. In light of the claim amendments and subsequent remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

A. The Rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is Overcome

The Official Action rejects Claims 1-11 as being directed to nonstatutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner finds that Claim 1 does not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts. In order to overcome the rejection and expedite prosecution of the application, independent Claim 1 now recites that at least one of the providing, allowing, and generating steps is performed by a data processing system. As disclosed on pages 9 and 10 in the specification of the present application, "Figure 2a illustrates an example of a data processing system 200 for an exemplary client device (e.g. computer system) or server computer system in which the features of the present invention may be utilized." Thus, at least one of the steps of the method of Claim 1 are required to be performed by a data processing system, such that at least one of the steps could not "be performed in the mind of the user or by use of a pencil and paper or manually."

Therefore, because independent Claim 1 now applies, involves, uses, or advances the technological arts and includes statutory subject matter, the rejection of Claim 1, and those claims that depend therefrom, is overcome.

B. Independent Claims 1, 12, and 24 are Patentable over the Cited References

Flake discloses an automated travel service management information system. The system stores business entity information and/or an individual profile for each agency customer in a relational database. For example, the individual profile could include a customer's personal information and travel preferences. The system also maintains information retrieved from a plurality of computer reservation systems in the relational database. Thus, the system centralizes the travel service information received from the computer reservation systems by integrating the different information and commands into one format for use by all travel agents. Consequently, agents are not required to access more than one computer reservation system and may also change a travel arrangement in response to a request.

Jafri discloses reservation software employing multiple virtual agents to complete travel reservations. More specifically, Jafri discloses that the reservation software is run on a personal computer that is connected through a server node and to a computer reservation system. A user is able to input a request for travel (e.g., flight, car rental, or hotel) and receive multiple travel options (e.g., three lowest fares) from the CRS using respective connections to the CRS. The travel options may be selected in accordance with user preferences stored in the reservation software. The user inputs each segment associated with a particular type of travel (e.g., the first leg of a flight), selects a desired segment, and repeats the process to build an itinerary. After the reservation has been completed for one type of travel (e.g., flight), additional reservations may be made for additional travel requirements (e.g., car rental or hotel).

Amended independent Claims 1 and 24 now recite generating a travel itinerary booking record including information associated with at least one booked travel item segment and information identifying each CRS for a respective booked travel item segment. Similarly, independent Claim 12 has been amended to recite that the booking engine generates a super passenger name record (PNR) including information associated with at least one booked travel item segment and information identifying each CRS for a respective booked travel item segment. Thus, the travel itinerary booking record or super PNR includes information associated with each CRS for respective booked travel item segments. For example, as further defined in new

dependent Claims 35, 37, and 39, the information associated with each CRS for a respective booked travel item segment includes a name of the CRS and/or a CRS locator. The travel itinerary booking record or super PNR also includes information associated with at least one booked travel item segment. For example, the travel itinerary booking record or super PNR could include standard PNR data, such as the traveler's name, address, telephone number, employer, etc.

Neither Flake nor Jaffri disclose generating a travel itinerary booking record or super PNR that includes information associated with at least one booked travel item segment and information identifying each CRS for a respective booked travel item segment, as recited by independent Claims 1, 12, and 24. In contrast, Flake discloses that a "PNR is a record of travel arrangements made in the past for a customer, which can be identified by the customer's name. Preferably, PNRs are stored by system 10 in the relational database of storage device 24. Consequently, via a workstation 30, a travel agent can retrieve and immediately review any previous travel arrangements a customer has made." Col. 8, lines 51-57. Thus, Flake does not disclose that the PNR includes any additional information other than the standard PNR information (i.e., name, address, etc.). For example, Flake discloses that the "PNR readily identifies the requesting customer" and that the system may sort PNRs associated with tasks by CRS. As such, Flake only discloses using standard PNR information to locate PNRs or sort PNRs for performing follow-up tasks, such as tasks for travel agents to complete or change travel arrangements. Although Flake discloses sorting PNRs by CRS, Flake does not disclose that the PNR includes any information that identifies the CRS.

Moreover, Jafri shares similar shortcomings as Flake. In this regard, Jafri discloses that a Traveler Profile is used as a basis for a CRS Passenger Name Record (PNR), where a "PNR is the basis of the reservation within the CRS, as is well-known in the art." Col. 6, lines 23-27. Consequently, Jafri also does not disclose that the PNR includes any information other than the standard information typically located in the PNR. As such, Jafri does not disclose that the PNR stores information that identifies a CRS for a respective booked travel item segment.

Therefore, the rejection of amended Claims 1, 12, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is overcome. Since the dependent claims include each of the recitations of respective independent

Claims 1, 12, and 24, the rejection of the dependent claims is also overcome for at least the same reasons as described above in conjunction with the independent claims.

C. New Independent Claim 41 is Patentable over the Cited References

Independent Claim 41 has been added and recites providing access to a plurality of CRSs for a client initiating a travel booking request, allowing the client to book a plurality of travel item segments from accessible CRSs, and generating a travel itinerary booking record including information associated with the plurality of booked travel item segments, each booked travel item segment associated with a respective CRS and at least two booked travel item segments are associated with different respective CRSs. Thus, independent Claim 41 generates a travel itinerary booking record (i.e., PNR) for booked travel item segments associated with different respective CRSs. In other words, a PNR includes information from a plurality of CRSs, while conventional PNRs typically include information for a single CRS. One of the several advantages of the present invention is allowing a client to locate a PNR and create, change, or cancel booked travel item segments even though they are associated with different CRSs.

Flake discloses that tasks are associated with PNRs and may be sorted by CRS. As also disclosed by Flake, "a queue may list five PNRs, three related to airline travel, and two related to bus travel. Airline travel arrangements are typically made using information from an airline travel [CRS], while bus travel arrangements are made using information from a different [CRS]." Col. 14, lines 62-67. Thus, Flake only discloses that a PNR includes information for a single CRS, while independent Claim 41 recites that a PNR includes information for a plurality of booked travel item segments associated with respective CRSs. Unlike the present invention, Flake does not teach or suggest that clients are capable of accessing and/or modifying a PNR for different CRSs such that clients using the Flake system would need to access and/or modify each PNR independently.

Although, Jafri discloses that separate PNRs may be created for each flight option returned to a user, the user only selects a single PNR to reserve a flight, and Jafri does not teach or suggest that a single PNR is capable of including all of the flight options. Furthermore, Jafri only permits users to access a single CRS to complete a reservation for different travel item

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segments (e.g., flight, hotel, or car rental). For instance, Jafri discloses that “[a]fter airline reservations have been completed, car and hotel reservations may be made in a similar manner.” Col. 6, lines 46-47. Because a PNR is created for each reservation in a sequential manner, it follows that Jafri does not teach or suggest a single PNR having at least two booked travel item segments associated with different respective CRSs.

Therefore, Applicants submit that newly added Claims 41-43 are distinguishable over the cited references and request allowance of the claims.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

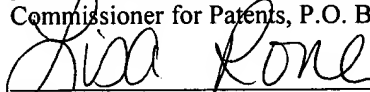


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